

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3715

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2126

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PFOR CO

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - COLOMBIA

REF: STATE 37591, USUN 0690, BOGOTA 0781, STATE 013264

1. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE KEYED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE (PARAGRAPH 7, A THROUGH E) CONTAINED IN STATE 037591.

2. (7-A) IN EXTRA-HEMISPHERIC MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS WHICH, FOR COLOMBIA, ESSENTIALLY CONCERN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS, WE EXPECT COLOMBIA TO PURSUE A "FOOT IN EACH CAMP" POLICY, AS THEY DID IN 1975. THE CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH PREVAILED PRIOR TO 1975 IS NO LONGER A FEATURE OF COLOMBIAN FOREIGN POLICY. ON U.S. QUESTIONS THAT ARE ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC MATTERS, COLOMBIA WILL PURSUE ITS OWN INTERESTS AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF A COLOMBIAN INTEREST, WILL GENERALLY VOTE WITH THE MAJORITY. DURING 1975, THE GOC ALSO FOLLOWED THIS LINE ON A NUMBER OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS (DECOLONIZATION, GUAM, ET AL). WE CAN EXPECT THIS TREND TO CONTINUE FOR COLOMBIA AS WITH OTHER LA'S (USUN 0690). WITH SUFFICIENT URGING, WE CAN PROBABLY OBTAIN GOC SUPPORT ON A FEW MAJOR ISSUES (E.G. 1975 FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA). BARRING A MAJOR GOC POLICY SHIFT, HOWEVER, COLOMBIAN SUPPORT ON UNGA MATTERS CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. AS FOR COLOMBIAN INITIATIVES, WE CAN ANTICIPATE AN EFFORT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF AN ANTI-TERRORISM RESOLUTION (BOGOTA CONFIDENTIAL

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0781). THERE IS NO PRESENT INDICATION THAT COLOMBIA WILL MAKE A

MAJOR EFFORT FOR LEADERSHIP OR ON BEHALF OF INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. (7-B) COLOMBIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO GO ALONG, TO A LARGE EXTENT, WITH THE POSITIONS ENDORSED BY THE MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. TO A LESSER EXTENT THE GOC WILL FOLLOW "THIRD WORLD" POSITIONS IN THE COURSE OF VOTING WITH THE MAJORITY. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE GOC FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY MAY QUESTION THE ADVANTAGES THAT ACCRUE TO COLOMBIA FROM THIS PRACTICE, WE DO NOT EXPECT A CHANGE FROM THE POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THOSE POLICIES THAT PREVAILED IN 1975. PRIOR TO 1975 COLOMBIA FREQUENTLY PLAYED THE ROLE OF "BRIDGE" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE LDC'S. THIS ROLE HAS BECOME LESS FREQUENT AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE A MAJOR FACTOR DURING 1976.

4. (7-C) THE GOC DOES NOT, IN EVERY INSTANCE, FULLY INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATES TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THE GOC DOES NOT MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE FOREIGN OFFICE OF STEP-BY-STEP CONTROL OF OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES, NOT IS

REPORTING FROM OVERSEAS SO ABUNDANT OR TIMELY AS TO PROVIDE FOR OVERALL CONTROL OF THEIR DELEGATIONS.

5. (7-D) NONE OF THE PRESENT GOC DELEGATION HEADS HOLDS POLITICAL POWER OF AN EXTENT THAT WOULD PUT HIM BEYOND GOC CONTROL.

6. (7-E) THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS RECEPTIVE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS. IT HAS, HOWEVER, BECOME INCREASINGLY NECESSARY (AS IN THE CASE OF THE FRIENDLY KOREAN SPONSORSHIP) TO MAKE SUCH REPRESENTATIONS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. AS FOR HOST GOVERNMENT APPROACHES TO THE EMBASSY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, THEY ARE RARE. WHILE THEY MAY ASK FOR U.S. HELP ON A SPECIFIC INITIATIVE OF THEIR OWN (COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN TERRORISM RESOLUTION) THEY DO NOT SOLICIT U.S. OPINIONS ON MOST MULTILATERAL MATTERS.

7. ON BALANCE, THE STATE OF OUR MULTILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLOMBIA WILL PARALLEL THE OVER-ALL U.S.-COLOMBIA RELATIONSHIP. THE CURRENT GOC ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO DEMONSTRATE COLOMBIA'S INDEPENDENT STANCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE DO NOT HAVE READY MEANS TO "PUNISH" COLOMBIA FOR ANTI-U.S. VOTES IN NEW YORK OR GENEVA ALONG THE LINES INDICATED IN PARA 4 OF STATE 013264.
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(THE GOC ASKED THAT OUR AID PROGRAM BE PHASED OUT. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS NOT OF A LARGE SCALE). CONVERSELY, THE INCENTIVES THAT WOULD CAUSE THE GOC TO RECONSIDER ITS STANCE ON U.N. ISSUES (ESSENTIALLY PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS) ARE NOT IN OUR POWER TO BESTOW. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE BEST APPROACH THAT WE CAN ADOPT IS THAT OF DEMONSTRATING THE COINCIDENCE OF U.S. AND COLOMBIAN INTERESTS. TO DO THAT EFFECTIVELY, WE NEED FREQUENT AND TIMELY ADVICE ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUES THAT ARE DUE TO COME BEFORE

THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA. IN THIS WAY, WE WILL BE BETTER
ABLE TO BRING ABOUT - ON AN ISSUE BY ISSUE BASIS - SUPPORT FOR
U.S. POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL MATTERS.
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